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**STATEMENT OF SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS ON INAUGURATION OF  
KAMALA HARRIS AS CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today hailed the inauguration of Kamala Harris as the state's new Attorney General, saying her innovative and visionary approach to criminal justice reform offers a new way forward for a system in dramatic need of rehabilitation.

"Kamala Harris' inauguration as Attorney General marks a new way forward for California's criminal justice system," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "Los Angeles County's enthusiastic support for her smart-on-crime policies helped secure her historic victory. I look forward to welcoming her back to the second District next week, when she will deliver the keynote address at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Empowerment Congress Summit on January 15.

In electing Harris, the first African-American, Indian-American and woman to hold the office, Ridley-Thomas said voters, particularly in Los Angeles County, had embraced her top priority: reducing California's appalling recidivism rate. About 120,000 prisoners are released on parole annually, with seven of 10 returning to custody within three years – the highest recidivism rate in the nation.

Locally, reducing recidivism rate is an important priority for the Supervisor. Ridley-Thomas has introduced a slate of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors aimed at curbing recidivism among youth transitioning out of county Probation, and on this

front and many others, including the development of gang intervention strategies and attention to environmental justice, Harris promises to be a wonderful partner.

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